

## Message Text

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SUBJECT: PROPOSED MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE FOR  
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL POLICY AT MINISTERIAL  
LEVEL. COUNCIL POSTPONES FINAL DECISION

REF: OECD PARIS 29600

1. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS. UNDER PRESSURE FROM  
CANADA, SUPPORTED BY UK, SWEDEN, AND PERSONALLY BY  
HEAD OF FRENCH DELEGATION, COUNCIL POSTPONED FINAL  
DECISION ON CSTP CONFERENCE AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL UNTIL  
AFTER NEXT CSTP PLENARY, JAN 28-29. CANADIAN, UK,  
SWEDISH AND FRENCH DELS ALL EXPRESSED OPINION THAT  
PREPARATIONS TO DATE DO NOT JUSTIFY HOLDING  
CONFERENCE IN JUNE 1975, IF AT ALL, AS PAPERS ARE TOO  
DIFFUSE AND ACADEMIC, WITH NO CONCRETE ISSUES IDENTIFIED  
FOR MINISTERIAL LEVEL DISCUSSION. THEIR POSITION  
REFLECTS RESTIVENESS AND SKEPTICISM OF OECD DELEGATIONS  
REGARDING SECRETARIAT PROMOTED WORK PROGRAMS IN SCIENCE  
FIELD. MISSION THEREFORE RECOMMENDS THAT DEPARTMENT  
AND OTHER AGENCIES INVOLVED IN PREPARATION FOR SCIENCE  
MINISTERIAL USE PERIOD TO JAN 28-29 TO DETERMINE AT  
HIGH (MINISTERIAL) LEVEL US OBJECTIVES AND CONCRETE  
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PRIORITY ISSUES FOR EVENTUAL CONSIDERATION BY SCIENCE

MINISTERS, AFTER ADEQUATE DEVELOPMENT BY CSTP AND SECRETARIAT. IN THIS WAY, WE COULD HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO SHAPE MINISTERIAL MEETING AND EVENTUALLY WORK PROGRAMS OF CSTP FROM OUTSET IN DIRECTION OF US GOVERNMENT INTERESTS AND OBJECTIVES. END SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

2. COUNCIL DEC. 17 HAD GENERAL DISCUSSION ON C(74)207. SECGEN OPENED WITH SECRETARIAT PLEA FOR APPROVAL, POINTING OUT TIMELINESS OF PROPOSED SCIENCE MINISTERIAL IN GIVING NEW POLICY ORIENTATION TO OECD SCIENCE AND AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS AT CRITICAL POINT IN WORLD ECONOMIC AFFAIRS. CANADIAN REP, HOWEVER, STATED THAT REVIEW OF BACKGROUND PAPERS BY HIS AUTHORITIES SHOWED THAT ISSUES HAD NOT YET BEEN CLARIFIED. THEREFORE, FINAL COUNCIL DECISION SHOULD BE POSTPONED UNTIL AFTER JAN. 28-29 CSTP MEETING, WHICH WOULD CONSIDER SECRETARIAT ISSUE PAPER DERIVED FROM BACKGROUND MATERIAL.

3. UK, SWEDEN, SUPPORTED THIS VIEW. FOR FRANCE, VALERY, ALTHOUGH OFFICIALLY ABLE TO APPROVE CONTENT AND DATE' FELT THAT THERE WAS MUCH TRUTH IN THE CANADIAN POSITION, AND KNEW HIS AUTHORITIES WOULD NOT BE DISPLEASED IF COUNCIL FOLLOWED CANADIAN LEAD.

4. AUSTRIA AND JAPAN IN FAVOR OF IMMEDIATE APPROVAL AND LATTER FELT THAT JUNE 1975 DATE PERHAPS NOT REALISTIC IF FINAL COUNCIL DECISION POSTPONED UNTIL AFTER JAN. 28-29.

5. RESPONDING, SCIENCE DIRECTOR OSHIMA ASSURED COUNCIL THAT SECRETARIAT WILL IDENTIFY SPECIFIC ACTION-ORIENTED POLICY ISSUES IN BACKGROUND PAPERS. THESE WILL BE SYNTHESIZED INTO BRIEF ISSUE PAPER FOR DETAILED REVIEWS WITH CHAIRMEN OF CONFERENCE STEERING GROUPS, JAN.6, AND SUBSEQUENT CONSIDERATION BY CSTP JAN.28-29.

6. SECRETARIAT PLANS TO TELEX FRIDAY, DEC.19 SUMMARY OF UNCLASSIFIED

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ISSUES TO CSTP AND STEERING GROUP CHAIRMAN (GRANGER FOR US). JAN.6 MEETING INTENDED TO OBTAIN CONSENSUS OF CHAIRMEN ON GENERAL LINES 10-15 PAGE ISSUE PAPER TO BE DEVELOPED BY SECRETARIAT FOR CONSIDERATION BY CSTP JAN. 28-29. ASSUMING CSTP ENDORSEMENT, SECGEN WILL RESUBMIT CONFERENCE PROPOSAL TO COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL. BACKGROUND PAPER FOR SCIENCE MINISTERIAL WILL BE REWORKED BY MARCH ACCORDING TO POLICY AND ACTION

ORIENTATION OF ISSUES PAPER.

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